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To Whom It May Concern:

This statement indicates how the University of Pittsburgh’s Rehabilitation Counseling Program meets the educational requirements for individuals who desire to become a licensed professional counselor (LPC) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or certified by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC). To this end, the first point is that the Rehabilitation Counseling program here within the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh is a Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) accredited program, fully meeting CORE’s curriculum standards. Moreover, the program curriculum was developed specifically to meet LPC standards in Pennsylvania and standards for the NBCC. We also routinely monitor our program curriculum to ensure ongoing alignment with LPC and NBCC standards, and update the coursework offerings when necessary.

The Rehabilitation Counseling program here at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is the only counseling program at the University of Pittsburgh. As is clearly recognized by our accrediting body, CORE, rehabilitation counseling is a sub-specialty within counseling, and therefore the basics of professional counseling instruction (including human growth and development, helping relationships, social/cultural foundations, and career/lifestyle development) are obviously key curriculum areas that need to be addressed. However, because our course names reflect “rehabilitation counseling” does not mean that the broad bases of counseling are excluded. This is true across our curriculum where all coursework related to counseling begins at a broad level and moves to the specific applications involved in rehabilitation and rehabilitation clients. The 60-credit requirement of our program permits us to cover the basis of counseling and also the more specific rehabilitation sub-specialty. We see rehabilitation counseling as falling within the over-arching discipline of professional counseling.

The content areas that our program covers, but that are sometimes not apparent from course titles are: (1) human growth and development, (2) social and cultural foundations, (3) helping relationships, and (4) career and lifestyle development. Please see below the designated coursework in our curriculum for each of these content areas:

- For the human growth and development content area, our program offers four courses that address this content. They are HRS 2733 - Introductory Counseling, HRS 2734 -
Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling, HRS 2715 Medical Aspects, and HRS 2738 – Rehabilitation of Psychiatric Disability.

- For the social and cultural foundations content area, our program offers four courses that address this content. They are HRS 2708 - Individual and Social Experience of Disability, HRS 2733 - Introductory Counseling, HRS 2734 - Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling, and HRS 2739 - Group and Family Counseling.

- For the helping relationships content area, our program offers five courses. They are HRS 2731 – Foundations of Rehabilitation and the Rehabilitation Counseling Process, HRS 2733 – Introductory Counseling, HRS 2734 – Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling, HRS 2739 – Group and Family Counseling, and HRS 2741 – Case Management in Rehabilitation.

- For the career and lifestyle development content area, our program offers one course. It is HRS 2735 – Career Counseling and Vocational Issues.

If more information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact our program:

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